On November 1, 1861, General McClellan succeeded General Scott in charge of all the armies of the United States. Early in that month, he sent General Buell to succeed General Sherman, who had desired to be relieved from command in Kentucky, and who was transferred to General Halleck's Department at St. Louis. McClellan organized the Federal forces in the West in two Departments under two commanders. General Halleck was assigned to the command of the Department of the Missouri, which included, besides the States of Missouri and Arkansas, that portion of Kentucky which lay west of the Cumberland River. To General Buell was given the Department of the Ohio, which embraced the remaining portion of Kentucky and the State of Tennessee. These officers acted independently of each other, and took their orders directly from General McClellan. The arrangement was an unwise and short-lived one; there was every reason for putting the Federal forces in the Mississippi Valley under a single control. But McClellan evidently expected that Halleck alone would be equal to the task of opening the Mississippi River; he looked to Buell to invade and occupy East Tennessee. His instructions to both officers were in very

general
terms, but Halleck was ordered to occupy important
points in Missouri and to concentrate the mass of
his troops on or near the Mississippi, " prepared for
ulterior operations ";[1] while BuelPs attention was
directed to the " necessity of entering East Tennessee
as soon as it " could ' be done with reasonable